

MESSAGING PROTOCOL FOR DEMAND-CAST SYSTEM AND BANDWIDTH MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Messaging protocols for use between components of an interactive program
5 guide (IPG) delivery system. The protocol provides a way to more efficiently utilize the
finite bandwidth available for distribution of IPG video sequences.

One embodiment comprises messaging protocols for communications between
a session manager(SM), a transport stream generator (TSG), and a set top terminal (STT).
The protocol for communication from the TSG to the STT specifies content for a demand-
10 cast index table that may be transmitted within a private section of a MPEG transport stream.
This content includes a list of available demand-cast streams. The protocol for
communication from the STT to the SM includes acquisition, release, and request messages.
The protocol for communication from the SM to the TSG includes stream release, stream
request, and reset messages, and the protocol for communication from the TSG to the SM
15 includes acknowledgements of those messages.

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